



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 2 February 2009

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- The Associated Press reports that US Airways said Thursday its computer system returned to normal after a cut fiber-optic cable delayed about 100 flights. The cable was accidentally cut near one of the airline's Phoenix data centers. (See item [12](#))
- According to a new report released Thursday by the University of New Hampshire and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the existing infrastructure for responding to maritime accidents in the Arctic is limited and more needs to be done to enhance emergency response capacity as Arctic sea ice declines and ship traffic in the region increases. (See item [26](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *January 30, Bloomberg News* – (Texas) **Valero refinery near Amarillo suffered brief power loss.** Valero Energy Corp., the largest U.S. refiner, reported a “brief” power disruption at its McKee refinery in Texas. “The local power company supplying power to the refinery experienced a malfunction resulting in a brief power supply interruption to the refinery,” a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality showed. “No advance notice of the power interruption was provided.” Emissions from a fluid catalytic cracker associated with the disruption took place between 10:42 a.m. and 10:48 a.m. on January 28, the filing showed. Operations returned to normal promptly after the

interruption, according to the filing.

Source: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/business/energy/6238279.html>

2. *January 29, Deutsche Presse-Agentur* – (International) **Yemen's main oil pipeline blown up, flow not affected.** Unknown attackers blew up Yemen's main oil pipeline that carries crude oil from the north-central province of Marib to a Red Sea export terminal Thursday, but export operations were not disrupted, security sources said. The sources said a technical team was assessing the damage to the pipeline that carries around 80,000 barrels of crude oil per day. It runs from the Safir oilfield in Marib to the exporting facility of Rass Essa in Houdieda province. The explosion occurred in the Arqain valley area, some 18 miles from Safir. An investigation into the attack was going on to find out whether tribesmen or Islamist militants were involved in the bombing, the sources said. On January 23, the leader of al-Qaeda in Yemen threatened to carry out attacks against U.S. and Western interests in the Arabian Peninsula.

Source:

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/business/news/article_1456553.php/Yemens_main_oil_pipeline_blow_up_flow_not_affected

3. *January 29, Davis County Clipper* – (Utah) **Flammable gas cloud identified as fire's cause.** Investigators from the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) say they know what caused the explosion at the Silver Eagle Refinery in West Bountiful, Utah on January 12 — the release of a large cloud of highly volatile hydrocarbons. But they do not know why the vapor was released and will continue to look for any recent process changes, at the history of recent releases from the tank and the integrity of the tank seal to determine why the vapor was released, a CSB investigation supervisor said in a statement released on January 27. A storage tank at the refinery exploded on January 12 seriously injuring four workers and causing the evacuation of nearby residents. Tank 105, as it is known, was almost full on the night of the accident, containing nearly 440,000 gallons of what the refinery calls "light naptha."

Source:

http://www.clippertoday.com/pages/full_story?page_label=home_top_stories_news&article-Flammable-gas-cloud-identified-as-fire-s-cause%20=&id=1841441-Flammable-gas-cloud-identified-as-fire-s-cause&widget=push&instance=secondary_stories_left_column&open=&

4. *January 28, KITV 4 Honolulu* – (Hawaii) **Leaking propane tanker shuts down parts of Maui.** Hazmat crews were called to Kihei, Maui, at about 8 a.m. January 28 due to a 3,000 gallon propane tanker that was experiencing mechanical problems. Maui police evacuated a half-mile radius surrounding Halama and Waiohuli streets after a leak was found. The precautionary evacuation affected about 100 homes and two condominiums. Authorities said no schools were required to evacuate. Police said efforts to stop the leak at the scene were unsuccessful, so the tanker was moved to another location. That transport required the temporary closure of Mokulele Highway from the central Maui baseyard through Piilani Highway up to Wela-Kahao Street. Evacuated residents were allowed to return home at about 1:45 p.m. No injuries or damages were reported.

Source: <http://www.kitv.com/news/18590769/detail.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

5. *January 30, Thibodaux Daily Comet* – (Louisiana) **Chemical spill closes Lafourche highway for hours.** In Larose, Louisiana, a corrosive liquid was spilled on a south Lafourche highway and closed the north-south thoroughfare for about eight hours on January 29, adding to traffic woes already caused by construction in a nearby community. About 200 gallons of a material described only as a “corrosive” by police, was dumped on the road after two metal drums fell off the back of the truck that was hauling them. Officers at Troop C headquarters said they didn’t have the exact name of the chemical immediately available, only the classification of the substance. It poses no health threat, they said.

Source:

[http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20090130/ARTICLES/901309997?Title=Chemical spill closes Lafourche highway for hours](http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20090130/ARTICLES/901309997?Title=Chemical_spill_closes_Lafourche_highway_for_hours)

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

6. *January 29, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (Georgia) **Unusual event: Toxic gas discharge in waste gas treatment building.** On January 29 at Hatch nuclear facility in Georgia, an unisolable pipe break on an in-service waste gas treatment building chiller has resulted in a toxic release of asphyxiant freon gas. All personnel were evacuated and no injuries occurred. An entry by operations personnel with self contained breathing apparatus verified that all site personnel have evacuated the building. There was no impact to offgas processing equipment in the area and actual gas concentration was not known at the time of declaration so the assumption of toxic gas concentration is conservative.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/event-status/event/en.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *January 29, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **NM lab warns workers, visitors of contamination.** A spokesman for the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico said Wednesday that employees and visitors have a low risk of becoming sickened by a contamination of beryllium, a substance that can cause lung disease. A lab spokesman said nearly 1,900 people were being notified about the possible exposure. He said no one at the lab had become ill from the substance, which is hazardous in a particulate or finely powdered form. “The risks are low. The chances of exposure are remote. Statistically, the chances of getting sick are even more remote,” he said. Los Alamos uses the extremely light, non-radioactive metal in nuclear weapons research. The lab first discovered the problem in November after a sampling found beryllium in an area that stores surplus materials. Officials do not know where it came from. Los Alamos

decided to notify everyone who went through the area from 2001 — when it was last tested for beryllium — through December, he said. About 240 people work in the area, but visitors included about 1,000 former and current lab employees and 650 other people who toured the restricted area, he said.

Source: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gLpU21-zIZq6DeyVKZECgmWmBIYAD960FNT00>

8. *January 29, Associated Press* – (New Mexico) **Los Alamos says lost equipment no security breach.** Los Alamos National Laboratory says there was no security breach when a Blackberry belonging to a lab employee was lost in a sensitive foreign country. An internal lab e-mail released today by a Washington, D.C.-based watchdog group also shows three lab computers were taken during a break-in at a scientist's Santa Fe home. The Project on Government Oversight (POGO) says the incidents are getting attention from senior management and the National Nuclear Security Administration. POGO says it is disturbed by the incidents because of past security lapses at the nuclear weapons lab over the past decade. A lab spokesman said that it is absolutely false to imply that the lost or stolen equipment constituted a security breach. He says computers allowed off lab property do not contain sensitive information.

Source: http://www.kdbc.com/Global/story.asp?S=9756373&nav=menu608_2_3

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *January 30, Bloomberg* – (New York) **Dreier, jailed lawyer, indicted in \$400 million fraud scheme.** The New York law firm founder accused of cheating hedge funds and other investors of more than \$400 million was indicted by a federal grand jury. The indictment, made public on January 29 in federal court in Manhattan, follows the defendants December 7, 2008, arrest on charges that he persuaded two hedge funds to give him more than \$100 million by falsely claiming he was selling at a discount notes issued by a New York developer. Prosecutors later said investors' losses exceeded \$400 million, a figure repeated in the indictment. "The defendant conspired to engage in securities and wire fraud," the acting U.S. Attorney in New York said in a statement announcing the seven-count indictment. The indictment expands the number of charges against the defendant, which says his scheme began in 2004, and identifies new crimes he allegedly committed. Among them were the embezzlement of client funds and the sale of fake promissory notes purportedly issued by a Canadian pension plan.

Source:

http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aLa6_R31Pl.w&refer=home

10. *January 29, Bloomberg* – (New York) **Banks agree to send \$535 million to Madoff trustee.** Bank of New York Mellon Corp. and JPMorgan Chase & Co. agreed to transfer about \$535 million in the accounts of collapsed trading firm Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC to the trustee liquidating the brokerage. Bank of New York agreed to transfer \$301.4 million and JPMorgan agreed to transfer another \$233.5 million, according to court papers filed on January 29 in U.S. Bankruptcy Court in New

York. The banks will send the funds to the trustee by February 6 and the trustee agreed to indemnify the banks against any claims brought as a result of the transfers, according to court documents. A hearing on the agreements is scheduled for February 4. The trustee was named trustee of Madoff Securities by the Securities Investor Protection Corp. on December 15, 2008, four days after prosecutors said the defendant confessed to operating a \$50 billion Ponzi scheme. The trustee's job is to liquidate the brokerage and find assets and distribute them to the firm's customers.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=avcSeEXgs4Ew&refer=home>

11. *January 30, Infozine* – (National) **Phishing scam targeting Missourians with bogus 'card services' calls.** Consumers have contacted the Missouri attorney general's office saying a caller claims to be from a company called Card Services, asking them to enter their credit card number to see if they qualify for a better rate. This is simply an attempt by thieves to steal credit card numbers. In the phone call, consumers are led to believe they are being contacted by their credit card company and they are asked to dial a number, usually 9, if they are interested in trying to get a lower interest rate. The attorney general says in phishing scams like this, with thieves fishing for personal information, the crooks can steal credit card numbers, use them in a matter of minutes through online purchases and run up big charges that appear later on the consumer's credit card statement.

Source: <http://www.infozine.com/news/stories/op/storiesView/sid/33599/>

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Transportation Sector

12. *January 29, Associated Press* – (National) **Computer problem delays US Airways flights.** US Airways said Thursday its computer system is returning to normal after a cut cable delayed about 100 flights. The airline said that a fiber-optic cable was accidentally cut near one of its Phoenix data centers, affecting its flight dispatch and airport computer systems. US Airways said no flights were delayed for more than an hour because of the problem. The carrier said its systems were coming back on line Thursday evening, but customers were advised to check with the airline about their flight's status. US Airways has about 3,100 flights a day to destinations in the United States, Canada, and international cities.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2009-01-29-us-airways-computer-glitch_N.htm

13. *January 29, Beaumont Enterprise* – (Texas) **Three dead in small plane crash near Anahuac.** Three men died after the experimental plane they were in crashed Thursday afternoon near Anahuac. All three are believed to be in their 50s and from the Baytown area, said a Chambers County sheriff at the crash site. The aircraft took off from RWJ Airpark in Baytown, he said. Witnesses heard a "splutter and cough" before the aircraft crashed in a field near FM 593 and Baytown Road, hitting the ground nose-first. A video camera was found at the site, leading officials to believe the men might have been

in the plane taking video for much of the day, the sheriff said.

Source:

http://www.beaumontenterprise.com/news/local/three_dead_in_small_plane_crash_near_anahuac_01-29-2009.html

14. *January 29, WESH 2 Orlando* – (Florida) **Orlando-bound passengers trapped in frozen plane.** AirTran Airways apologized on Wednesday to all the passengers aboard Flight 373 after delaying the plane more than 10 hours. The passengers boarded the flight around 8 a.m. and were stuck until changing planes before taking off at 5:46 p.m. The plane was trapped on the tarmac in a flight that was almost literally frozen to the ground. “One whole side of the plane looked like [a] glass block,” a passenger said. “It was completely iced, had a quarter inch of ice. At that point, the snow started coming down really bad.” Ground crews used three truckloads of deicing fluid, trying to thaw the frozen plane. Typically, one truck lasts three days. The passengers got off the plane, only to board another one, finally taking off nine hours later. AirTran said it should have canceled the flight. Passengers will get a written apology and a free roundtrip ticket.

Source: <http://www.wesh.com/cnn-news/18591982/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

15. *January 30, Star-Ledger* – (New Jersey) **Feds promise better notice about bird kills.** Federal authorities who killed hundreds of starlings that dropped from Somerset County skies last weekend promised New Jersey representatives yesterday they will better notify local officials of future “treatments” of nuisance birds. The promise from the Wildlife Services branch of the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) was made in a letter to the senator of New Jersey following the commotion caused last week when the USDA launched an effort to kill 3,000 to 5,000 European starlings that were plaguing a Mercer County farmer. Notices of the eradication failed to reach residents of surrounding communities, and people in the nearby Griggstown section of Franklin Township in Somerset County were alarmed to find the birds falling dead onto their cars, porches and snow-covered lawns. The targeted starlings, an invasive species that displaces native birds and fouls agricultural operations, consumed a slow-acting poison at a USDA monitored bait-site in Mercer County on January 23. But the birds did not remain on the site, as expected, and died on the weekend, when federal officials were not around to handle calls from local officials. The deputy administrator of Wildlife Services said starling treatments will no longer be done on Thursdays and Fridays in that area, and new protocols will be developed for working with local officials.

Source: <http://www.nj.com/news/ledger/jersey/index.ssf?/base/news-12/1233293208132600.xml&coll=1>

16. *January 30, Wenatcheeworld.com* – (Washington) **NCW company fined for pesticide violations.** A Chelan company, Global Fruit Inc., has been fined \$11,300 by the state Department of Agriculture for worker protection violations discovered during inspections last June at orchards in Mattawa and Zillah. A spokesman for the Department of Agriculture said the fine was assessed October 29 and has not been paid. Unpaid fines are referred to the attorney general's office and eventually to a collection agency, he said. In setting the fine, department staff noted Global has violated similar pesticide worker safety standards in the past three years. The department's compliance inspector found several instances of Global failing to provide adequate safety for workers when pesticides were used at its orchards, according to a department news release.
Source: <http://wenatcheeworld.com/article/20090130/NEWS04/701309954>
17. *January 30, Idaho Statesman* – (Idaho) **Officials look into cow deaths on Ada farm.** Neighbors and passing motorists who reported seeing cows dropping dead on a south Ada County farm prompted an investigation January 28 by the Idaho Department of Agriculture and Ada County animal control officials. Veterinarians from the state agency and the Idaho Humane Society obtained a search warrant to examine cattle at the farm. At 5 p.m. January 28, investigators had tallied at least 43 dead cows, many pushed into a large pile. Investigators determined that close to 250 live beef cattle on the property needed to be moved for the welfare of the animals and food safety. The farm owner claimed he did not know why his cattle were dying. Tests will be run to determine whether disease was a contributing factor in the cows' deaths.
Source: <http://www.idahostatesman.com/102/story/649388.html>
18. *January 30, Associated Press* – (National) **Peanuts tainted with metal fragments.** The government acknowledged January 30 that a shipment of peanuts from the plant linked to a salmonella outbreak contained a "filthy, putrid or decomposed substance" later identified as metal fragments. The shipment was returned to the United States in April, months earlier than reflected in a federal tracking database. The rejected shipment — coming across a bridge between New York and Canada — was logged by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) but never tested by federal inspectors, according to government records. The incident took place in mid-September, the records show, weeks before the earliest signs of the outbreak. The FDA said Friday that the shipment of chopped peanuts from Peanut Corp. of America in Blakely, Georgia, was eventually destroyed, after back-and-forth efforts between the FDA and Peanut Corp. broke down and the FDA rejected as "unacceptable" findings by a private lab hired by Peanut Corp. to analyze its peanuts.
Source: <http://www.huffingtonpost.com/huff-wires/20090130/med-salmonella-outbreak/>
19. *January 29, Reuters* – (California) **Snow study shows California faces historic drought.** A new survey of California winter snows on Thursday showed the state is facing one of the worst droughts in its history, the California governor said. The state, which produces about half the United States' vegetables and fruit, is in its third year of drought and its main system supplying water to cities and farms may only be able to

fulfill 15 percent of requests, scientists said. The snowpack on California's mountains is carrying only 61 percent of the water of normal years, according to the survey by the state Department of Water Resources. Last year the snowpack held 111 percent of the normal amount of water, but spring was the driest ever recorded. "California is headed toward one of the worst water crises in its history, underscoring the need to upgrade our water infrastructure by increasing water storage, improving conveyance, protecting the (Sacramento) delta's ecosystem and promoting greater water conservation," the governor said in a statement. A meteorologist with the state said that some farmers have left fields unplanted based on expected lack of water. The state's largest irrigation district, Westlands Water in the major farming counties of Fresno and Kings, told growers on Wednesday to brace for zero water supply this year. Twenty-five local water agencies are already mandating rationing. The state Department of Water Resources is arranging water transfers through its Drought Water Bank program and expects to release a full snowpack runoff forecast in two weeks.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/environmentNews/idUSTRE50S7NK20090130>

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Water Sector

20. *January 30, The State* – (South Carolina) **Leaking underground tanks prompt response from DHEC.** For only the second time in more than a decade, the state's environmental agency is telling budget writers it needs money to clean up gasoline-polluted sites that threaten drinking water and property values across South Carolina. The Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) needs an extra \$7.5 million for cleanups at places polluted by leaking underground storage tanks, according to a list of budget priorities it provided to the House Ways and Means Committee. South Carolina has one of the nation's 10 largest backlogs of sites polluted by leaking tanks — and the DHEC has known for years that fuel tank leaks have tainted 80 percent of the places with contaminated groundwater. The backlog is so significant that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has threatened sanctions if the state doesn't speed up the pace of storage tank cleanups. The state has some 3,000 sites polluted by underground tanks. Underground storage tank leaks come mostly from gasoline stations, maintenance yards, convenience stores, and farms. Pollutants that seep from these tanks into groundwater often include benzene, which can cause cancer, and MTBE, a gas additive of increasing health concern.

Source: <http://www.thestate.com/local/story/668091.html>

21. *January 29, Virginia Tech News* – (National) **Professor highlights failing U.S. water infrastructure in national press briefing.** A Virginia Tech professor with the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech and renowned expert on water infrastructure said America is failing in its quest to provide safe drinking water in high quality and high quantity. The professor with the Virginia Tech Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, along with other scientists from the American Chemical Society (ACS) held a press briefing on January 27 in Washington D.C., to speak out on water quality and safety. He said many challenges face U.S. water system managers and gave two examples. Old water pipes are failing at alarming rates, with some cities losing 15

percent to 40 percent of its treated water from the plant to customers. Leaks and breaks in the pipes are the cause of the losses. “That’s unacceptable,” he said. The breaks also pose the danger of contaminants seeping into the water supply during low-pressure periods. The second problem comes from well-intentioned and necessary water conservation efforts. He said that technologies such as reduced-flush toilets and low-flow showerheads are allowing water to remain in household pipes longer, and therefore allowing it to become more susceptible to bacteria growth. “So just like milk can go bad if it stays around too long, so too can potable water go bad, and we are discovering this is a downside of water conservation,” he said. The bacteria problem can be exacerbated when customers lower their water heater temperatures in an effort to save gas or electricity.

Source: <http://www.vtnews.vt.edu/story.php?relyear=2009&itemno=56>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

22. *January 29, Agence France-Presse* – (International) **Japanese researchers develop all-round flu vaccine.** Researchers in Japan said Thursday they had developed a flu vaccine that works against multiple viruses and could prevent a deadly pandemic of bird flu mutations. The research team has tested the vaccine on mice implanted with human genes, confirming that it works even if flu viruses mutate, according to a researcher at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases. Currently flu vaccines use a protein covering the surface of viruses but the protein frequently mutates to make the vaccines ineffective. The newly developed vaccine is based on common types of protein inside the bodies of flu viruses as they rarely change. The viruses used are the Soviet-A and Hongkong-A along with the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu.

Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iUQA0nBgPhpPZakGxJQ05bU2JCwA>

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Government Facilities Sector

23. *January 30, Air Force Times* – (National) **Synthetic fuel plant at Malmstrom nixed.** The Air Force has decided to pass on a plan that would allow a private firm to build a synthetic fuel plant on federal property on Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. “The Air Force has determined proposals received for a coal-to-liquid synthetic fuel plant on [Malmstrom] are not viable and will no longer pursue possible development of a plant at the installation,” read a statement from Air Force public affairs. The Air Force said the plant could lead to “degradation of security in the vicinity of Weapons Storage Area; interference with existing missile transportation operations; explosive safety arcs and operational flight safety issues.” The plan was to have a civilian company build and run the plant and pay the Air Force in fuel for use of the land. The Air Force plans to certify all its airframes on domestic synthetic fuel by 2011 and has been checking off test flights steadily: The B-52, C-17, B-1 and F-15 have all flown with a 50-50 blend of

conventional jet fuel and coal-derived diesel. The Air Force's stated goal is to fly all planes with the 50 percent blend by 2016.

Source:

http://www.airforcetimes.com/news/2009/01/airforce_malmstrom_syntheticfuel_013009/

24. *January 29, KSBY 6 Santa Maria* – (California) **Airmen train for aftermath of terrorist attack at Vandenberg Air Force Base.** A training drill at Vandenberg Air Force Base on January 29 challenged the airmen of the 30th Medical group to get 100 people the medical care they need after the base is attacked by terrorists. The scenario revolved around a car driving onto the base and the occupants inside conducting a terrorist attack utilizing a chemical substance in an aerosol can and explosives. Within seconds, 100 base personnel in the simulation were in need of emergency medical assistance. Thursday was the last day of a four-day exercise to see how the base medical team would handle a real-life chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear attack. "This is really challenging us because we're doing about 20 more patients than we normally do," said an airman who participated in the exercise. Procedure dictated that before anyone could be treated, they were to be decontaminated first. Once they were scrubbed clean, the patients received treatment. Base officials will spend the next few weeks deconstructing this week's exercise and apply the necessary modifications to the next training operation.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28924059/>

25. *January 29, Dayton Daily News* – (Ohio) **Wright-Patterson AFB makes changes in base access.** Effective Sunday, February 1, 2009, the operating hours for Wright-Patterson Air Force Base's Area B access gates will change. Gate 19B at National Road will become Area B's new 24-hour gate. Gate 22B, located at Interstate 675's Exit 15, will be open under the new arrangement from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays. Gate 1B on Springfield Street will remain open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, excluding holidays. Security and traffic flow are the reasons for the changes, base officials said. The new arrangement does not affect access to the base's Areas A, C, or Kittyhawk.

Source:

<http://www.daytondailynews.com/b/content/oh/story/business/2009/01/29/ddn012909newgateweb.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *January 29, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* – (International) **UNH/NOAA report: Arctic region underprepared for maritime accidents.** The existing infrastructure for responding to maritime accidents in the Arctic is limited and more needs to be done to enhance emergency response capacity as Arctic sea ice declines and ship traffic in the region increases, according to a new report released Thursday by the University of New Hampshire and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The report details findings from a panel of experts and

decision-makers from Arctic nation governments, industry and indigenous communities convened by the Coastal Response Research Center, a UNH-NOAA partnership housed at the university. The panel, which included representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Arctic Research Commission, assessed the potential threat of maritime accidents in the Arctic and the ability of nations in the region to respond effectively to vessels in distress, oil spills and other situations.

Source: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090129_arctic.html

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Information Technology

27. *January 29, CNET News* – (International) **‘Obama worm’ probably a student prank, experts say.** A new Internet worm that displays an image of the U.S. President is likely a prank by a student, several security experts speculated on January 29. Walling Data, a distributor of AVG security software, said the worm it discovered on computers at an Illinois grade school spreads via external devices like USB drives and network shares. Once a week, on Mondays, it displays a photo of U.S. President’s face in the lower right corner of screens on infected computers, but otherwise appears to be more of a nuisance than a threat. The worm looks like a variant of MAL_OTORUN code that spreads using thumb drives and network shares, said a senior threat analyst and researcher at Trend Micro. “Someone played around with one of the many number of DIY malware kits and just added this small social engineering bait of the U.S. Presidents picture,” he wrote in an e-mail. Given that it lacks a malicious payload, “it is probably some prank by a student since today’s ‘serious’ malware, as you may have noticed, would have at least installed a keylogger to steal some information.”

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10153017-83.html?part=rss&tag=feed&subj=News-Security

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

28. *January 29, Friday Morning Quarter Back* – (National) **Severe storms build case for radio in cell phones.** With much of the country being hit by severe weather and snow storms, some would argue that the importance of building cell phones with FM radio capability is stronger than ever. The Emmis Communications Chairman & CEO echoed this sentiment by sharing a memo that was sent to him by the president of the Cromwell Group, which operates 22 radio stations in the Midwest. The chairman wrote: “Owensboro, Kentucky is now a federal disaster area. There is no local communication

except for our radio stations that are on the air, thanks to a very dedicated staff. No Cell, No Telephone, No Long Distance, No Cable, 80 percent No Electric, No communication except Local Radio and Evansville Radio/TV from 30 miles away. If there ever was a case for FM receivers in cell phones, this is it. This is a wide spread disaster where all communication has been disrupted, except for over-the-air radio. Everyone has a cell phone (now useless). The cell phone would not be useless if it had an FM radio in it.” Sharing the memo via e-mail, the president of Cromwell Group goes on to stress that as the radio industry looks for ways to revitalize itself, it is important to remember how vital the medium is in times of crisis.” Radio is where people turn to when they need information. If cell phones had FM receivers, we could have served an even wider audience suffering through this storm, looking for updates on the weather, roads and schools,” he said. “We will be sharing this story with our elected officials and with the FCC Commissioners. The conversations we have had to date with Washington D.C. and with cell phone providers have been promising.”

Source: <http://www.fmqb.com/Article.asp?id=1134924>

29. *January 28, United Press International* – (International) **Model of Canadian LG cell phones recalled.** A voluntary recall of some 250,000 cell phones was announced on January 27 for Canadian users of LG 150 models because of radiation concerns. The Korean company’s Canadian headquarters in Mississauga, west of Toronto, said in a release “independent bodies responsible for the certification of mobile phones (found) that the LG 150 mobile phone is no longer certified as meeting the Radio Standards Specifications...Radio Frequency Exposure Compliance of Radio communication Apparatus.” In a telephone interview with United Press International, an LG spokesman said the phones were marketed only in Canada and the United States, although the recall applied only to Canada, which has “different specifications” than the United States. He said 3.5 million of the mobile phone models had been manufactured in the past two years. Owners of the phones were advised to return the devices to the point of purchase for a replacement model at no charge. The federal Health Canada agency said “past and current use of the LG 150 should not pose immediate or long-term health concerns,” the company’s statement said.

Source: <http://myces.bdmetrics.com/NST-6-50178789/Model-of-Canadian-LG-Cell-Phones-Recalled.aspx>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

30. *January 29, Minneapolis Star Tribune* – (Minnesota) **Man accused of threatening to kill Obama, blow up Mall of America.** A 20-year-old southwestern Colorado man has been indicted on charges of threatening to kill the U.S. President and blow up the Mall of America in Bloomington. The man was indicted January 27 in federal court in Denver. A warrant has been issued for his arrest, and authorities declined to discuss his whereabouts. He faces one count each of transmission of threats and falsely threatening to use explosives. The man emailed the FBI eight days before the President was inaugurated, the indictment alleges, and wrote: “I’m going to assassinate the new president of the United States of America. PS you have 48 hours to stop it from

happening.” Federal court records also say he emailed the FBI with a threat against the mall: “I have rigged 40 pounds of C4 [a moldable plastic explosive] ... and my favorite TNT to 7 cars outside the Mall of America.” Mall officials were “notified immediately” by the FBI and Bloomington police of the threat, said the executive vice president of business development. The mall was given the all-clear after 16 to 18 hours once it was determined that “the threat wasn’t valid” and a search of the giant retail and entertainment complex turned up nothing suspicious.

Source:

<http://www.startribune.com/local/38608537.html?elr=KArksLckD8EQDUoaEyqyP4O:DW3ckUiD3aPc:Yyc:aUUsZ>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report

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Dams Sector

31. *January 30, Claims Journal* – (Missouri) **Missouri town celebrates Mississippi River flood wall upgrades.** A ceremony on January 30 will mark the formal recognition of a planned \$9 million upgrade to the flood wall along the Mississippi River in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The renovations are the result of a partnership between the city and the Army Corps of Engineers. About \$3.5 million will be used to place large rock along the existing retaining wall on the river side. That work could be done by the middle of this year. Other parts of the project include structural repairs and improvements at two pump stations. The city assumed control of the flood wall in September 2008. For 50 years, it has had been maintained and operated by levee districts.

Source: <http://www.claimsjournal.com/news/midwest/2009/01/30/97443.htm>

32. *January 29, Grand Forks Herald* – (North Dakota) **Corps outlines options for Drayton Dam.** The Drayton Dam is in rough shape and getting worse. About 40 people attended an open house and public meeting on January 29 to learn about options for repairing or replacing the deteriorating dam, which has gained a reputation as a safety hazard and one of the last major barriers to fish passage on the Red River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the city of Drayton sponsored the January 29 meeting. The two entities are working together to explore projects for the dam. Water spilling over the Drayton Dam creates dangerous roller currents on the downstream side, and at least 10 people have drowned at the site in the past 45 years.

Source: <http://www.grandforksherald.com/articles/index.cfm?id=104279§ion=news>

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